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1. The Russians believe that the sealing off of the Western Sectors of Berlin is a necessity in view of the rapid remilitarization of West Germany and the establishment of military installations there. They know that West Berlin has proved to be an excellent observation point for East German activities and regard this as a nuisance to be obliterated. However, since the sealing off would involve serious economic drawbacks for East Germany, the introduction of special passes authorizing West Berliners to enter East Berlin is being considered. A blockade of West Berlin is not expected in the near future.
2. The press, film agencies, theater, literary circles, and cultural agencies have been directed to glorify German national heroes such as Bismarck, Gneisenau, Scharnhorst, Lattow-Vorbeck, and others.<sup>1</sup>
3. Pacifist tendencies as represented by those old-line Communists who established the East German Communist régime in 1945 are being fought actively. Purges and trials, similar to that staged against Slansky in Prague, are being conducted or planned.<sup>2</sup>

1. Comment. Such directives were given in the late summer of 1952.

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2. Comment. A certain reserve vis-à-vis the remilitarization of East Germany has been observed occasionally among Communist Party and SED circles. Aside from this, these circles have faithfully followed the Party line. Therefore, this opposition appears to carry no great weight.

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